Splits	Overlays
	General Attributes of Overlays
 Splits provide a single area code for each geographic area. Future splits will reduce the geographic size of the area code. 	 With an overlay there will be multiple area codes for each geographic area and it will end further shrinking of the geographic size of the area code Subsequent relief will likely be another overlay. Overlays avoid the need for public and political involvement concerning split boundaries and which side should retain the old area code.
• Splits require an area code change for approximately one half of customer's numbers in a two way split and two thirds of customer's numbers in a three way split. Stationery, business cards and advertising will need to be revised by customers receiving the new area code.	• An overlay will not require existing customers to change their area code. There is no need to revise stationery, business cards and advertising unless they contain only seven digit phone numbers.
• Geographic splits permit 7-digit for local calls within an area code.	
• Geographic splits would increase the amount of 11-digit dialing within western Massachusetts.	• In the absence of a waiver, an overlay will require customers to dial 10 Digits or 1 + 10 digits for all calls within the geographic area.
	• Given the DTE's recent relief

	order, an overlay would provide consistent dialing statewide.
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